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| FORM PTO-1449<br>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT<br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>3688ME-43 | SERIAL NO. |
|  | APPLICANT<br>SHIMIZU et al.   |            |
|  | FILING DATE                   | GROUP ART  |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |    | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB<br>CLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROP. |
|----------------------|----|--------------------|------|------|-------|--------------|---------------------------|
|                      | AA |                    |      |      |       |              |                           |
|                      | AB |                    |      |      |       |              |                           |
|                      | AC |                    |      |      |       |              |                           |
|                      |    |                    |      |      |       |              |                           |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|     |    | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE     | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB<br>CLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|-----|----|--------------------|----------|---------|-------|--------------|-------------|----|
|     |    |                    |          |         |       |              | YES         | NO |
| MRC | AD | 3,037,625          | 03/05/97 | JAPAN   | —     | —            | ✓ X         |    |
|     | AE |                    |          |         |       |              |             |    |
|     |    |                    |          |         |       |              |             |    |

## OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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|  | AF |  |
|  | AG |  |
|  | AH |  |
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|---|----------------------------|
| EXAMINER <i>Morgan R. Chelij</i>  | DATE CONSIDERED 09/22/2006 |
| *EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |                            |